

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-13, and 16-21 are pending in this application. Claims 2-3 and 14-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10-14, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,982,502 to Jinnai further in view of U.S. patent 6,570,510 to Chen et al. (herein "Chen"). Claims 3-5, 9, 15-17, and 21 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 3-5, 9, 15-17, and 21.

The present response is submitted to place the present application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter. More specifically, by the present amendment each of independent Claims 1, 11, 12, and 13 is amended to incorporate the limitations from original dependent claim 3, which features were noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Thereby, each of amended independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 13 are believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

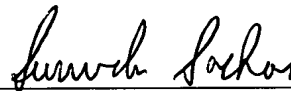
Other of the claims are amended by the present response to now depend from one of allowable independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 13.

Thereby, by the present response applicants respectfully submit each of the claims as written is allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
SNS/rac

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

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